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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

CRITICIZE ASTRAKHAN, STALINGORSK FISH INDUSTRY;  
PRAISE PRIMORSKIY FISHERMEN, BAYKAL SCIENTISTS

The fall fishing season in the Volga-Caspian area is in full swing. Over 1,000 men and women have gone to the delta and the sea to fish. However, they have already begun to make the same mistakes made during the spring fishing season when, due to unorganized work by the processing-transport fleet, the catch was often delayed, and part of the fish spoiled and was lost. The seiners caught a great deal of fish, but the floating canneries were not able to receive them all and several containers of fish had to be dumped overboard. More time was spent looking for ships to process the fish than on fish catching.

In August, of all the fish processed by city fish plants during the fourth 5-day period, 19.2 percent were of third-grade quality and 164 centners were used for refuse. During the fifth 5-day period, 559 centners were spoiled. The quality of the fish on floating fish cannery No 11, during this time, was for each 100 centners of fish received 17.4 centners first-grade products, 13.4 centners second-grade, and the remaining 69.2 centners either third-grade or spoiled. Nearly the same situation existed in floating canneries No 4, 5, and others.

One may rightfully ask the leaders of the Astrakhan organizations for what reason fish are caught in Astrakhan if, once they are caught, they are to be destroyed and not preserved.

The poor work done by the Volga-Caspian State Fish Trust enterprises in processing and preserving fish has become so customary that several of its leaders no longer notice the trust's shortcomings. The damage cost the state many millions of rubles. In 1948, straight losses of fish (fish lost due to spoiling or lost during shipping, processing, and preserving) paid for by the government amounted to nearly 90,000 centners. These great losses disturbed the local leaders only slightly. In 1949, losses and spoilage of products increased and were even higher than the losses for the corresponding 1948 period.

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In addition to this, Volga-Caspian Trust enterprises from year to year lose many millions of rubles due to the increasingly smaller variety of fish products put out by them. The plan for first-grade products is never fulfilled. In addition to the straight losses of fish during the first half of 1949, the 44,300 centners of fish which were partially spoiled, not issued according to plan, or of third-grade quality must be added.

This intolerable situation can be explained only by the basically wrong attitude toward the public good and the obliviousness to quality of products existing in the Astrakhan fish industries.

The Ministry of Fish Industry USSR in reestablishing and enlarging the fish-catching fleet did not bother to enlarge the processing fleet at the same time. As a result, a large gap has been created between the catching and processing of fish.

The Astrakhan Oblast Party Committee, although it should have, did not take any measures to improve this situation. When the fall fishing season began, it was discovered that nearly half the motorized and sailing fishing boats were not repaired. Even now, many tons of processing-transport ships are not participating in the fishing season.

Other important question also were not considered in preparing for the fall fishing season. At present, enterprises are feeling the lack of ice and salt, both of which are abundant but which are not being brought to the regions where industry needs them.

The Astrakhan fish economy organs have received repeated instructions from the state to raise the quality of fish products. At the beginning of August these questions were specially discussed by the Bureau of Oblast Committee VKP(b), but they were not studied thoroughly and no concrete decision was accepted.

It is the duty of the state to look after industry's organization of work, its economy, thrift, and quality of fish products. The Astrakhan Oblast Party Committee should have seriously occupied itself long ago with the Volga-Caspian industries and with helping the fishermen and workers of the enterprises to fulfill the obligations they have undertaken.

#### FISH BASIN DEPLETED -- Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 213, 9 Sep 49

In a letter to the editor, it was stated that fish resources in the Stalinogorsk Basin are being needlessly depleted and that the situation should be remedied.

Five years ago, the Stalinogorsk Basin, formerly part of the Moscow Fish Trust under the Ministry of Fish Industry RSFSR, was given to the "Moskvougol'" Combine. Since that time, fish resources in the basin have been depleted; fishing has proceeded as usual but the basin has not been restocked even once.

#### EXPLOITATION OF BAYKAL CONTINUES -- Komsomol'skaya Pravda, No 219, 16 Sep 49

The Baykal Limnology Station of the Academy of Sciences USSR is located in Listvyanka (Listvennichnoye), a settlement at the source of the Angara River opposite the port and railroad station Baykal. The station has a large staff of scientists -- geologists, meteorologists, chemists, and botanists -- who explore and study Lake Baykal. Among them is Prof Mikhail Mikhailovich Kozhov of the Irkutsk State University imeni Zhdanov who has under his tutelage students studying to be scientists and research workers.

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It was once believed that no marine life existed in the extremely cold and deep water of Lake Baykal. Soviet scientists, however, have discovered in it several typical marine inhabitants and even creatures which have never been seen before. They state that Lake Baykal contains 1,890 varieties of living organisms, 70 percent of which are peculiar to it.

Research expeditions of scientists working at Lake Baykal are conducted on a floating laboratory. In the ship's cabins are found white surgical tables, numerous test tubes, retorts, and nickel equipment. During the expeditions, which usually last several weeks, the ship serves as both a home and laboratory for the scientific workers. At this time, specimens are gathered, the depth of the lake measured, and observations made. Specimens are hauled in by means of a dredge which can excavate to a depth of 1,000 meters or more. At a certain depth, commercial fish other than white fish are found. The lake also contains a large amount of marine life which is eaten by fish; mollusks, however, seem to be neglected by them.

Two unique organisms found during an expedition are a variety of goby peculiar to Lake Baykal and the golomyanka (Comphorus). The latter, a transparent fish without scales, is viviparous. Formerly, fishermen catching golomyanka would throw it overboard since it spoils as a result of the slightest handling and melts in the sun because of its high fat content. The Baykal gobies are important commercially. The limnology station has, for this reason, studied them and developed equipment and methods of catching them. At present, fishermen catch and can gobies in large quantities. In the near future, golomyanka will also be caught.

Work is being done to introduce different varieties of fish into Lake Baykal. Some time ago, Amur River carp were transplanted to a small cove on the eastern shore of Lake Baykal. After they spawned, they left and went out into the lake. Swimming singly in the lake, the carp could not breed. The behavior of the carp remaining in the cove is now being studied by one of the scientific workers.

At the end of an expedition the floating laboratory returns to Listvyanka where the gobies, golomyanka, and other rare varieties of fish caught undergo the most careful analysis. They are dissected, eviscerated, X-rayed, and at times even have their blood tested to determine the family of fish to which they belong.

**PRIMORSKIY KRAY AHEAD OF PLAN** -- Krasnaya Zvezda, No 199, 24 Aug 49

Vladivostok -- Primorskiy Kray fishermen have achieved great successes this year. The Main Administration of Primorskiy Kray Fish Industries has already completed the year plan for canning, and the canneries have completed the Five-Year Plan.

The Iatvinskiy Plant, one of the foremost, completed the Five-Year Plan on 11 July, and produced twice as much as was specified in the plan.

**NEW FISH PLANT BUILT NEAR GUR'EV** -- Kazakhstanskaya Pravda, No 182, 17 Sep 49

Gur'ev -- The Ural-Caspian State Fish Trust is constructing a new coastal fish plant located 25 kilometers from Gur'ev where the Ural Mountains meet the Caspian Sea. Three one-batch salting establishments for 30,000 centners of fish, three storage shops, and storehouses for salt, tare, and stock have already been erected. Racks for producing sun-dried fish products have also been installed.

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The new plant is named "Damba." So far, it has four dormitories for workers, an electric power plant, a store, and a dispensary. A club, bathhouse, and a mess hall are under construction. There is also a 7-year school and a public radio reception and distribution center.

At present, workers are preparing to receive fish from the fall-winter catch. Salt, tare, and stock are being brought in.

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